

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FORM 10-300

USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOMINATION AS

FINALLY SUBMITTED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

The Northside

AND/OR COMMON

The Indianapolis Old Northside Historic District

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

11th

STATE

Indiana

CODE

018

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

097

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ MUSEUM☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☒ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Various Public and Private Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

City-County Building

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Indiana State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Indiana State Museum

CITY, TOWN

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana

(Cont. on attachment)

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
___ FAIR

___ DETERIORATED
___ RUINS
___ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
___ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Northside, an area of about sixty-five square blocks, is located just north of the "Mile Square" that formed the boundaries for the original city of Indianapolis. Most of the houses in the district were built between 1850 and 1910, with the 1870's being the period of greatest development. While the houses are built in a variety of styles, the overall visual quality of the neighborhood is defined by the large building lots, the two and a half story building elevations, the siting of the houses back from sidewalks, and the large trees. Several major church buildings are found in the area and their tall spires serve as focal points. Although some of the houses have been converted to businesses, there are a few business blocks within the district, and these lie on the fringes. (See Photos #50, #51; Map #50, #51)

The earliest houses built in the district were in the Victorian Italianate style. Most of these are of brick construction with two and a half story elevations; heavy window mouldings and bracketed cornices are the distinguishing decorative details.

More typical of the Italianate houses in the district are the Benjamin Harrison House (already listed on the National Register) and the Eden-Talbot House at 1336 N. Delaware St. (See pictures #1A and 1B, Map #1) The two houses were built within two years of each other - 1876 and 1878 respectively - and both are brick, two and a half stories, with plain window architraves but elaborated heads, wooden bracketed cornices, and frieze windows. The Eden-Talbot House is, however, symmetrical, with a five bay facade with a central entrance pavillion of three story elevation. The pavillion composition includes the entrance, with a carved stone surround and prominent keystone; the keystone and flanking brackets support a small, carved stone Balustrade marking the second level of the pavillion. (See picture #1C) The second floor window opening repeats the ground floor motif on a smaller scale, with keystone segmental arch and brackets also supporting a small balustrade. The third floor window has a round arched head; flanking pilasters carry brackets that support the segmentally-arched roof. Flanking the central pavillion, windows of the main facade are segmentally arched with moulded heads featuring exaggerated keystone motifs. The cornice is flat, with brackets and a frieze of alternating panelled and glazed sections. On the north side of the house, there is a portecochere with round arched openings that feature prominent keystones; the cornice repeats the motifs on the cornice of the main house. (See picture #1A) On the south wall, a porch was remodeled into a bay window late in the nineteenth century. (See picture #1B)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Medicine	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the late nineteenth century, a residence in what was then the Northside of the city became a mark of success and affluence. While industry and its accompanying working-class neighborhoods sprang up to the south, west, and east of the original Mile Square boundaries of the city, the well-to-do built their mansions in the sylvan setting to the north of the commercial and retail district. The northward movement began as early as the late 1840's, but not until after the Civil War did the Northside see substantial development. From that time to the beginning of the twentieth century, the area was the most fashionable place to live. After 1900, other areas still farther north were opened up and the original Northside- which became the Old Northside by virtue of the migration- was supplanted by such places as N. Meridian St. as the most prestigious residential area. During the last half of the nineteenth century, however, the Old Northside was the home of the principal leaders of Indianapolis social, political, commercial, and industrial life, as well as the location of leading religious and educational institutions.

Education and law were, each in their own ways, responsible for attracting expensive residential development in the Northside. In the eastern part of the area, Ovid Butler, an early Indianapolis lawyer, erected one of the first homes north of the then-town limits ("Forest Home"), 1306 N. Park, 1848-9; (Map location 21; extensively altered). Butler was responsible for founding North Western Christian University, which developed into modern Butler University, and located the school's first campus two blocks east of his home. During the next twenty years, professors at the University, public schoolteachers, and Ovid Butler's sons and daughters built homes near "Forest Home". Abram C. Shortridge, principal of North Western Christian University's Preparatory Department during the Civil War and later the first Superintendent of the Indianapolis Public Schools, built his residence at 636 E. 13th St. (Map location 22). At 1514 N. College, Pleasant Bond, principal of Indianapolis' first high school, Shortridge, and later Superintendent of the Marion County Schools built his house in 1873-4. (Map location 23) Mary Nicholson, principal of the Normal Training School, built a house at 1233 Broadway in 1903; she lived there with two of her sisters, one of whom was an artist. (Map location 24)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Addition Record , Pioneer National Title Insurance Company
 2. Brown, Paul Donald (Ed.). Indianapolis Men of Affairs 1923. Indianapolis: American Biographical Society, 1923.
- (Continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 170

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	5,7,2,2,2,0	4,4,0,4,4,0,0	B	1,6	5,7,3,4,5,0	4,4,0,4,4,2,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	5,7,3,4,6,0	4,4,0,3,7,6,0	D	1,6	5,7,2,2,3,0	4,4,0,3,7,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at the point where the centerline of North Pennsylvania Street intersects the northern boundary of the I-65 right-of-way east along the I-65 right-of-way to the center line of North Bellefontaine Street. North along the center line of North Bellefontaine Street to the south curblin of 16th Street.

West along the south curblin of East 16th Street to the center line of
(continued on attachment)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cheri Lynn Indianapolis Coordinator Junior League/HLFI Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana

DATE

28 July 1976

STREET & NUMBER

3402 Boulevard Place

TELEPHONE

317-926-2301

CITY OR TOWN

Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

STATE

(Continued on attachment)

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____

STATE ____

LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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6. Historic American Buildings Survey
Date: 1970 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

The following buildings within the district have been recorded by the
Historic American Buildings Survey: Harrison House, Morris-Butler House

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The Lauter House at 612 E. 13th Street dates from about 1873. It is a brick house, also two and a half stories, build on an irregular cross plan. (See picture #2; Map location #2) Less ornate than other Italianate houses, the Lauter House facade has a segmentally-arched first floor window with paired round arched windows on the second floor; other windows in the house are also round arched. The round arches are simply emphasized with dressed stone springing blocks and keystone; the arches themselves are brick. The frieze is wood, with panels separated by brackets. In the 1890's, a bay was added on the east side of the house to encase a staircase, the bay is stone, with colonettes between the windows and a frieze with Adamesque motifs; a parapet extends above the cornice.

The Merrill House at 1531 N. Broadway Street, built in 1875, is a frame Italianate example. (See picture #3A and 3B; Map location #3). The house has a three bay facade with an end-bay entrance, and all the windows have square heads. The simple and traditional form of the house is, however, enriched by applied motifs. The ground floor openings have segmentally-arched hoods, while those on the second floor are flat arched. The scalloped motif under the window sills, the carving between the window heads and hoods, and the dog-eared window surrounds add additional interest. The frieze is divided into sections by brackets; the larger sections are panelled, with carved motifs in the panels, while the smaller sections are glazed. (See Picture #3B).

Other Italianate style houses are found largely in the southern part of the district. At 1221 N. Delaware Street, a two and a half story, brick Italianate house built in 1878-80 has flat stone window heads, a bracketed cornice with frieze windows, and a hipped roof. (Not pictured; Map location #18). Unlike the other Italianate houses, 1221 N. Delaware Street has a relatively planar facade, with little moulding of the decorative trim below the cornice.

Similar to the Italianate houses is the Morris-Butler House, one of few Second Empire houses in Indianapolis. (Not pictured; Map location #43). It was built in 1862 and has the traditional mansard roof of domestic Second Empire architecture. The house is listed on the National Register.

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By the 1880's, the American taste in architecture had become more eclectic; this shift in taste is reflected in the Old Northside district by the large number of Queen Anne and Stick Style residences that were built in the 1880's and 1890's. While brick remained a popular building material, the proportion of frame houses increased. Shingles, lapped siding, turned spindles, and terra cotta were some of the materials used to sheath and decorate irregularly-massed, multi-gabled houses.

The house at 1522 N. Broadway (exact date unknown) is a primary example of the Queen Anne style. (See pictures #4A and 4B; Map location #4). It is a two and a half story, frame building with an irregular plan. The variety of window openings is typical of late nineteenth century houses. In the north of the entrance is a two part bay window, while to the south of the entrance the window is a three part composition with a larger center section flanked by narrower lights. On the second floor, the north windows are double, divided by a turned mullion; the south window is an oriel with three one by one double hung sash windows. On the south elevation, a bay rises through the cornice to form a dormer. The facade dormer has triple Ionic colonettes supporting the lintel decorated with an Adamesque swag motif that is repeated over the second floor windows.

Another undated house at 1449 N. Pennsylvania (See pictures #5A and 5B and 5C; Map location #5) is more symmetrical, with two story bay windows flanking the central entrance. On the ground floor, the bays have one over one double hung sash windows; on the second floor, the central section of each bay has small, fixed-sash windows above carved panels. Clapboards, fishscale shingles, and carved panels are used to sheath the building. On the front porch, which extends across the width of the facade, the frieze is decorated with Adamesque swags.

Features of the houses at 1522 N. Broadway and 1449 N. Pennsylvania are also evident in the house at 1413 N. Delaware. (See pictures #6A, 6B and 6C; Map location #6). This house exhibits an assortment of projecting bays with different window treatments. Surface materials include stone, brick, and decorative shingles. Decorative motifs are again evident, with a carved pedimented gable over the entry porch. (See picture #6B). An oriel on the second story has a carved base resting on brackets. (See picture #6C). Recessed in the shingled, pedimented gable are a group of four one by one double hung sash windows. A semi-conical hood projects over the windows. On the south side wall, the exposed chimney has a rock-faced stone base and a brick stack decorated with stone weatherings and bandings.

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The Von Hake House at 1504 N. Park, built in 1887, is a brick example of the Queen Anne style. (See pictures #7A - 7C; Map location #7). The house is two and a half stories with an irregular plan and roof line. The facade plane has receding elements at the corners, with brick corbelling supporting the facade gable. Dressed stone courses mark the division into stories and stone labels and sills accent the major window openings. Above the doorway and in the facade gable, terra cotta motifs are found. (See picture #7C). On the south side, a semi-octagonal bay projects. Porches feature chamfered posts, grouped in twos and threes, and brackets. The chimney on the south wall rises through the roof, where pilasters give the appearance of multiple stacks supporting a corbelled cap. (See picture #7B).

The Jameson-Morris House at 1422 N. Broadway, built in 1876, is a Queen Anne style house with elements of the gothic revival. (See pictures #8A - 8C; Map location #8). The house is brick, built on an L plan, in a form reminiscent of designs from such "pattern books" as Downing, Vaux, and Palliser. The brick walls are accented with stone lintels and voussoir blocks in the segmental and pointed arches of the main groupings of double windows. The main facade gable and the two dormers originally had similar stickwork, although this has been removed from all but the smaller dormer. (See picture #8B). The porch, between the arms of the L, has paired, chamfered posts with brackets supporting the cornice; there is a small gable over the steps and a framework between posts that once enframed glazed panels. (See picture #8C).

The McKay House at 1241 N. Broadway (1886) has simplified Queen Anne features. (See pictures #9A and #9B; Map location #9). It, too, is a two and a half story, brick house built on an L plan; brick string courses, smooth dressed stone lintels over the doors and windows, and terra cotta motifs in the chimney and a shingled gable are the decorative elements on an otherwise plain facade.

Several Queen Anne style houses have prominent corner towers rising above the roof line of the main house block. The Smith House (1332 N. Alabama; 1896) is a two and a half story, frame building with a three story tower on the northeast corner with a conical roof. (See picture #10; Map location #10). The upper two stories of the tower have groups of three colonettes separating the window group. The house is otherwise a relatively simple building, with a plain frieze and boxed cornice, square headed windows, and a shed-roofed porch.

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Contemporary with the Queen Anne style houses are several Stick Style residences. The Townley House at 1508 N. Broadway (1876-7) is similar to the Queen Anne Jameson-Morris House built in the same year. (See pictures #11A and 11B; Map location #11). Both houses have an L plan with a prominent facade gable that is embellished with elaborate bargeboards. The Townley house, however, is frame, and the most prominent Stick Style feature is the overlay of boards over the clapboard sheathing. In addition to the facade gable, there is a two story bay within the gable that emphasizes the vertical quality. (See picture #11B). The facade gable has a prominent bargeboard. The porch has been enclosed.

In the twentieth century the more symmetrical balanced styles of the Colonial Revival became popular. In contrast to the Queen Anne style these houses are rectangular in plan, strictly symmetrical, with gambrel, hipped, or gable roofs; frequently there is a strong central motif, such as a Palladian or pedimented window above the doorway.

The Colonial Revival style is exemplified by a house at 1325 N. New Jersey (See picture #12; Map location #12). It is two and a half story frame rectangular building with a three bay facade. The central entrance has side-lights and an elliptical transom light; a low arched hood is supported by square columns. The flanking windows are three part, with a wider center double hung sash; the second story windows are double hung sash (except the central window with two nine light fixed sashes). The frieze is undecorated and a dentil course runs below the boxed cornice.

An unusual house that does not fit easily into a stylistic category would be the Reid House at 1456 N. Delaware Street built in 1906-7 and designed by Herbert W. Foltz. (See picture #13A; Map location #13). The design is castellated gothic, with relatively broad wall surfaces. Windows are generally small, except for a large facade window opening with three lancets within the round arched enframement; the tympanium has trefoil and round windows. The second floor window is rectangular, with three fixed panes; the stone lintel is extremely deep and heavy. The other major openings have round heads emphasized with stone arches. The cornice has an arched corbel table and a castellated-parapet. (See picture #13B).

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Churches in the Northside area reflect the revival styles that characterize domestic architecture. The former Friends Church, built in 1895, is Romanesque Revival. (See picture #14A; Map location #14). It is a brick building with round and segmentally arched openings. The entrance porch, offset on the north end of the facade, has a deeply inset doorway beneath a round arch; the small gable over the doorway has an inscription stone reading: "Friends Church 1895". The nave facade has a tall gable with a raking corbel table. The facade windows have double hung stained glass sash below transom lights. The center window is a three part composition with an elliptical arch extending above the flat lintel; terra cotta ornament fills the tympanum. (See picture #14B). The facades of the cross aisles are treated identically to the nave facade. Chimneys rising along the exterior walls have arched inset panels and corbelled caps.

The Central Avenue Methodist Church at 521 E. 12th Street, built in 1891, is also Romanesque Revival. (No photograph; Map location #17). It has a triple round arched entrance with stone voussoirs contrasting with the red brick walls. There is a major tower at the south end of the facade and a tower at the north end. The roof over the sanctuary is an octagonal dome.

All Saint's Church at 1537 N. Central was built in 1910 and once served as the Episcopal Cathedral for the Indianapolis diocese. (See picture #15; Map location #15). The Gothic revival facade is strictly symmetrical, with a low arched entrance below a tall arched opening containing three tall lancets. Single lancets flank the major opening. At the peak of the gable, there is an oval window. At either end of the facade there are buttresses; along the nave, buttresses also divide the walls into window bays. The tympanum over the doorway has a carved blind gothic arches; the enframing of the main window is also sandstone. The other windows have stone mouldings and sills with brick architraves. Weatherings on the buttresses are also stone.

The Second Church of Christ Scientist at 1201 N. Delaware contrasts with the other churches in the area. (See picture #16; Map location #16). It has a neo-classical facade with six doric columns in antis supporting the entablature; the frieze has triglyphs and metopes. Above the thin cornice, a parapet has blind recessed panel. Behind the porch, the facade extends an additional story with a simple frieze and cornice. Flanking the main block are one story wings that continue the cornice line of the porch entablature. The openings are simply enframed; behind the portico, the five bays of the facade are divided into recessed panels.

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Throughout the Northside, changes have taken place since the area's period of prosperity. These changes have produced building stock and certain clearance areas that have been classified as intrusions and located on the colored map accompanying this form.

Neutral intrusions have been colored gray on the map. These primarily are apartment buildings of three stories in height and set back to the building line established when the first houses were built. These buildings are built of brick or masonry construction and in scale and proportion are compatible with the visual character of the area. An example of these neutral intrusions is located at map locations #44 and #45 and photo reference #44 and #45 respectively. Also there are several taller, multi-story apartment buildings particularly on North Delaware and Pennsylvania Streets. An example is the Sherwood & Harrison Apartment buildings at 1300 and 1320 North Delaware (See Picture 46; Map Location 46).

A few intrusions creating a negative visual impact are classified negative intrusions and located on the color coded map by light brown. These negative intrusions are primarily located on the periphery of the boundary and comprise a combination of one story modern cinder block commercial buildings, gas stations and a federally-funded housing project (See Picture 47; Map Location 47). An example of the one-story commercial type is map #48.

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Lawyers were attracted to the Old Northside after Benjamin Harrison - lawyer, Civil War general, and twenty-third President of the United States- built a spacious brick mansion at 1230 North Delaware St. (Map location 25) During the next thirty years Harrison's presence attracted nearly all of his law and political associates to the Old Northside area. His various law partners serve as prime examples. In the 1880's Harrison formed the law firm, Harrison, Miller and Elam. William Henry Harrison Miller, later to become the President's Attorney General, bought a home across the street from the senior partner, (1217 North Delaware Street; no longer standing). Spann, who built the house, was a real estate promoter who built the house for resale. In 1888 John B. Elam built a rambling Queen Anne house just north of Ovid Butler's home at 1340 North Park Avenue. (Map location 26) Harry J. Milligan, a close friend of Harrison and Miller who once read law in their office, erected, a Neo-Classic residence on Delaware Street after the President retired, (1441 North Delaware Street). (Map location 27) Close friends of Harrison outside of his law practice also moved to this neighborhood in the late 1890's. Alfred F. Potts, another Harrison acquaintance, built an English Tudor residence on 15th Street some years later, (236 East 15th Street; 1912). (Map location 28)

Partly in response to the trend sparked by Benjamin Harrison, governmental officeholders also erected comfortable homes in the genteel section of the city. Examples included Republican Mayor Caleb S. Denny, who built a Queen Anne-style residence on Pennsylvania Street, (1327 North Pennsylvania Street. c. 1891), (Map location 29) and Democratic Mayor, National Democratic Chairman, and U.S. Senator Thomas Taggart, who constructed a Colonial Revival home on Delaware Street, (1331 North Delaware Street; 1913). (Map location 30) Taggart had been appointed U. S. Senator and never won the office through election; his local influence was great, however. He is best memorialized by the resort he started at French Lick, a watering spa that attracted such national Democratic figures as F. D. Roosevelt. Separated from Harrison's circle and influence, but not immune to the desire to own a home in the Old Northside was Captain John Byrd Conner (1514 North Park Avenue; 1883), a founder of the Republican Party in Indiana during the 1850's and an influential party figure throughout the nineteenth century.

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During the early years of Indianapolis, the well-to-do in commerce and industry built their homes in the northern portion of the Mile Square. As late as the 1860's, mansions were being constructed on the Circle, at the center of the old town plat. After the Civil War a boom in Indianapolis trade and industry erupted. New fortunes were made and in the 1870's their holders looked to the Northside of the city, where Benjamin Harrison was building his Delaware Street home. From that point onward, what lots were not purchased by Harrison's or Butler's friends, were acquired by merchant princes and industrialists of the rapidly expanding city.

The merchant-residents of the Old Northside numbered among their ranks such entrepreneurs as Anthony J. Gerstner, a successful merchant tailor who built a brick Italianate residence opposite "Forest Home", (521 East 13th Street; 1873). (Map location 31) Joseph T. Elliott, an investment broker and banker purchased a home at 620 East 13th Street (1872-73). (Map location 32) George E. Townley, a leading grain merchant (and son-in-law of Ovid Butler) built an Eastlake-Stick Style home on Broadway Street, (1508 Broadway; 1876-77). (Map location 11)

Men of commerce attracted to Harrison's "sphere of influence" along Delaware Street included Allen A. Russell, a dealer in agricultural implements, who built his "dream home" in the Italianate style across the street from the then-U. S. Senator Harrison, (1221 North Delaware Street, c. 1878-80). (Map location 18) John Calvin Perry, founder of J.C. Perry & Co., one of the principal wholesale grocer firms of the city, purchased Russell's home about 1890.

To the east of Delaware Street, Oscar F. Frenzel, a member of the family which owned Merchant's National Bank, constructed a rambling frame home on quiet, seldom traveled New Jersey Street, (1338 North New Jersey Street; 1905-6) (Map location 33) On Central Avenue, the great north-south highway to points northeast of Indianapolis during Victorian times, Herman P. Lieber, Secretary of the H. Lieber Co., prosperous dealers in art work and picture frames, built a residence in 1908-09, (1415 Central Avenue). (Map location 34)

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Leading industrialists also entered the Northside real estate market as it became clear that the socially prominent had chosen to establish themselves in the neighborhood. In 1885, one of the first "captains of industry" to make his appearance was Herman C. Dewenter, a German immigrant who co-founded a major furnace manufacturing firm, Kruse and Dewenter, and lived at 1340 North Alabama Street. (Map location #35). On Delaware Street another industrialist of German extraction, John W. Schmidt, erected an enormous home at 14th and Delaware Streets, (1410 North Delaware Street; 1890-91). The home now houses the Indianapolis Propylaeum, a private club and is listed on the Register (Map location #36). Schmidt, president of the Indianapolis Brewing Company, was joined in the Old Northside in the late 1890's by an associate of his firm, Albert Lieber, who built his home directly north of Ovid Butler's homestead, (1332 North Park Avenue, c. 1898). (Map location #37).

On Delaware Street, the 1890's saw the arrival of William J. and Edward L. McKee, brothers of President Harrison's son-in-law and partners in the McKee family boot and shoe manufacturing and retail business, (1229 North Delaware Street; c. 1873). (Map location #38) The house had been built speculatively by Jason Carey; both McKee brothers lived in the house.

Although the Northside was dominated by political, education, business, and commercial leaders, other professional men were attracted to the area. Dr. Patrick H. Jameson, who won notice as an early surgeon in the city, built an imposing Eastlake-Queen Anne residence on Broadway, (1422 Broadway; 1876). (Map location #8). Jameson was particularly interested in the treatment of the insane and served as President of the Insane Asylum; he also served on the boards of both the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind Asylums. One of Jameson's neighbors on Broadway was Dr. Theodore H. Wagner, an authority on the treatment of smallpox and Marion County Coroner during the 1880's, (1445 Broadway; c. 1872-75). (Map location #39).

The principals in the largest theatrical management company in the city also lived in the area. From the 1870's into the twentieth century they operated virtually all the major opera houses (theatres) in town. Henry Morrison Talbott resided in a dignified Italianate mansion at 1336 North Delaware

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Street, (1878). (Map location #1) His partner after 1900, Fred E. Dickson, bought a Florentine villa at 1456 North Delaware that had been built in 1906 by William J. Reid, who was an official of Kingan and Co., a major pork packer on the city's west side. (Map location #13)

Literature was written and published by northsiders. Meridith Nicholson, who lived at 1500 North Delaware Street, wrote House of a Thousand Candles, the name that was popularly given to this 1905 residence. (Map location #40) Samuel Merrill, a founder of Bowen-Merrill, predecessor of Bobbs-Merrill publishers, built a house at 1531 North Broadway in 1875. (Map location #3)

Churches were numerous in the Old Northside. Some of the most prominent congregations of the city relocated from original sites in the Mile Square to locations in the Old Northside during the 1890's and early twentieth century. The former First Presbyterian Church, (1525 North Delaware Street; 1902; Crapsey and Lamm, architects); (Map location #41) moved north from New York and Pennsylvania Streets; it was one of oldest congregations in Indianapolis having first settled on Monument Circle in 1841. The former First Congregational Church (1516 North Delaware Street), (Map location #42) was built in 1894-1901. It was formed by the merger of three congregations, one of which dated from 1859 when it, too, was sited on the Circle. Second Church of Christ Scientist at 1201 North Delaware Street; Central Avenue United Methodist Church, (512 East 12th Street; 1891; Otter and Williams, architects), (Map location #17); All Saints Episcopal Church, the former Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis (1533 Central Avenue; 1910), (Map location #15) were other prominent churches in the area.

Architecturally, the Northside represents most of the styles popular from the Civil War to the early twentieth century. Early houses were largely Italianate, and few were designed by identifiable architects. They represent the nineteenth century builder's art, probably with designs drawn from pattern books available at the time. Later in the century, Queen Anne and Stick Style became dominant; again, few architects can be identified as designers. One architect, however, lived in the district -- Oscar D. Bohlen, partner in the important firm, D. A. Bohlen and Son, built a house at 1440 North Broadway in 1885; although records do not exist, he probably designed the house himself. (Map location #49) About the same time,

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Chicago architect William LeBaron Jenny designed a Chateausque house for Hervey Bates, Jr. (destroyed). By the turn of the century, Colonial Revival was the dominant style, although other formal houses in more eclectic styles can be found. Churches represent the dominant styles of American ecclesiastical architecture; most are Gothic and Romanesque Revival, although one is classical in form. These churches are designed by local architects, although none is by any of the prominent local firms of the period.

The Old Northside area owes its historical importance as an aristocratic, affluent neighborhood to the movement northward from the Mile Square during the late nineteenth century of the socially prominent. This migration was sparked in the eastern portion of the Old Northside by educator Ovid Butler during the 1850's and 1860's. Benjamin Harrison performed a similar service in the western portion, particularly along Delaware Street. His law partners and social acquaintances swiftly followed Harrison's lead, erecting fashionable mansions throughout the Old Northside. Commercial and industrial leaders joined the procession as the century closed. With the shift of the affluent population toward the north, many of the city's larger church congregations also moved to the Old Northside and erected ecclesiastical structures of architectural grandeur.

After World War I, the Old Northside experienced a slow decline. During the 1920's and 1930's most of the great families moved farther north. World War II and the 1950's saw the partitioning of many large homes into apartments. Demolition occurred on some blocks during the 1960's. Today, renovation and restoration of many of the homes in the area has begun.

In the early 1970's the southern portion of the original Old Northside was lost during the construction of Interstate 65. The highway marks the southern and eastern district boundaries. Commercial development along Pennsylvania indicate a definite break between the residential and later commercial areas along the western edge. Business development also marks Sixteenth Street as the northern boundary. The houses that remain north of Sixteenth Street are of a later period and a less style than the large structures in the districts.

The Old Northside Association, a neighborhood organization has begun to draw the city's attention to this historic area, and they are encouraging restoration of the remaining historic structures.

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North Central Avenue; south along the center line of North Central Avenue. to intersection of south property line of property bordering on 16th Street. Then west along south property lines of properties bordering on 16th Street to the center line of New Jersey Street.

South along center line of New Jersey Street to intersection of south property line of the two lots (the northern of which borders 16th Street). West along southern property line of the south lot continuing west across an alley continuing west along the southern property line of a brick building (IPALCO Hall) at the southeast corner of Alabama Street and 16th Street to the center line of Alabama Street.

North along the center line of Alabama Street to the intersection of the southern property line of a brick building at 1532 North Alabama (Alabama Trading Post) continuing west one foot north of building line of United Presbyterian Metropolitan Center. Then west across North Delaware along a line one foot north of the building line of Gospel Assembly Church and continuing west one foot north of building line of Penn Arts Building to the intersection of the center line of North Pennsylvania Street.

South along the center line of North Pennsylvania Street to the north boundary of lot numbered 1408 N. Pennsylvania Street, west along the north boundary of subject lot, south along the west boundary of subject lot, east along the south boundary of subject lot to the center line of North Pennsylvania Street. Then south along the center line of North Pennsylvania Street to the point of origin.

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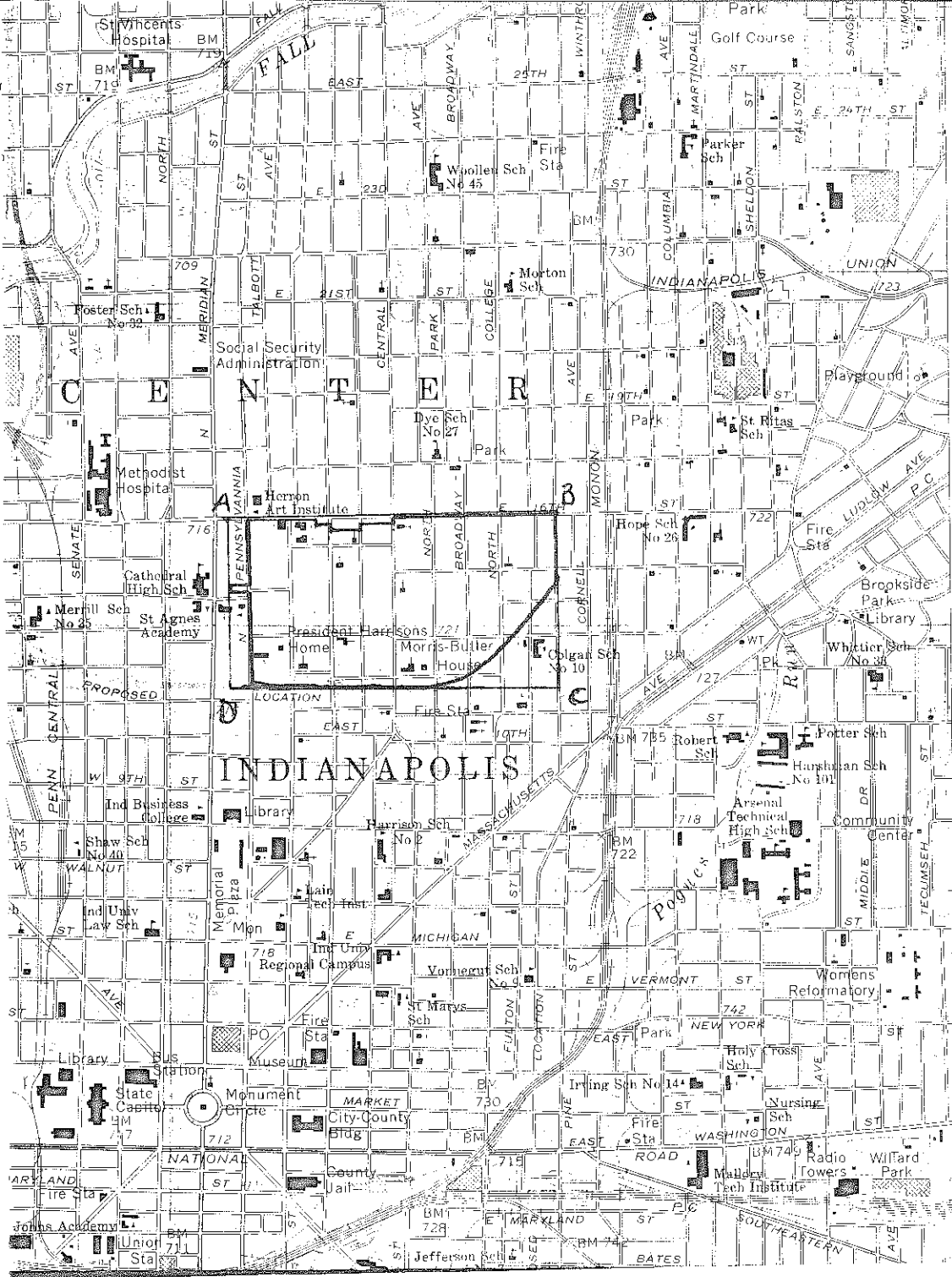
317-926-2301

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Indianapolis Old
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A 16/572220/4404400

B 16/573450/4404420

C 16/573460/4403760

D 16/572230/4403760

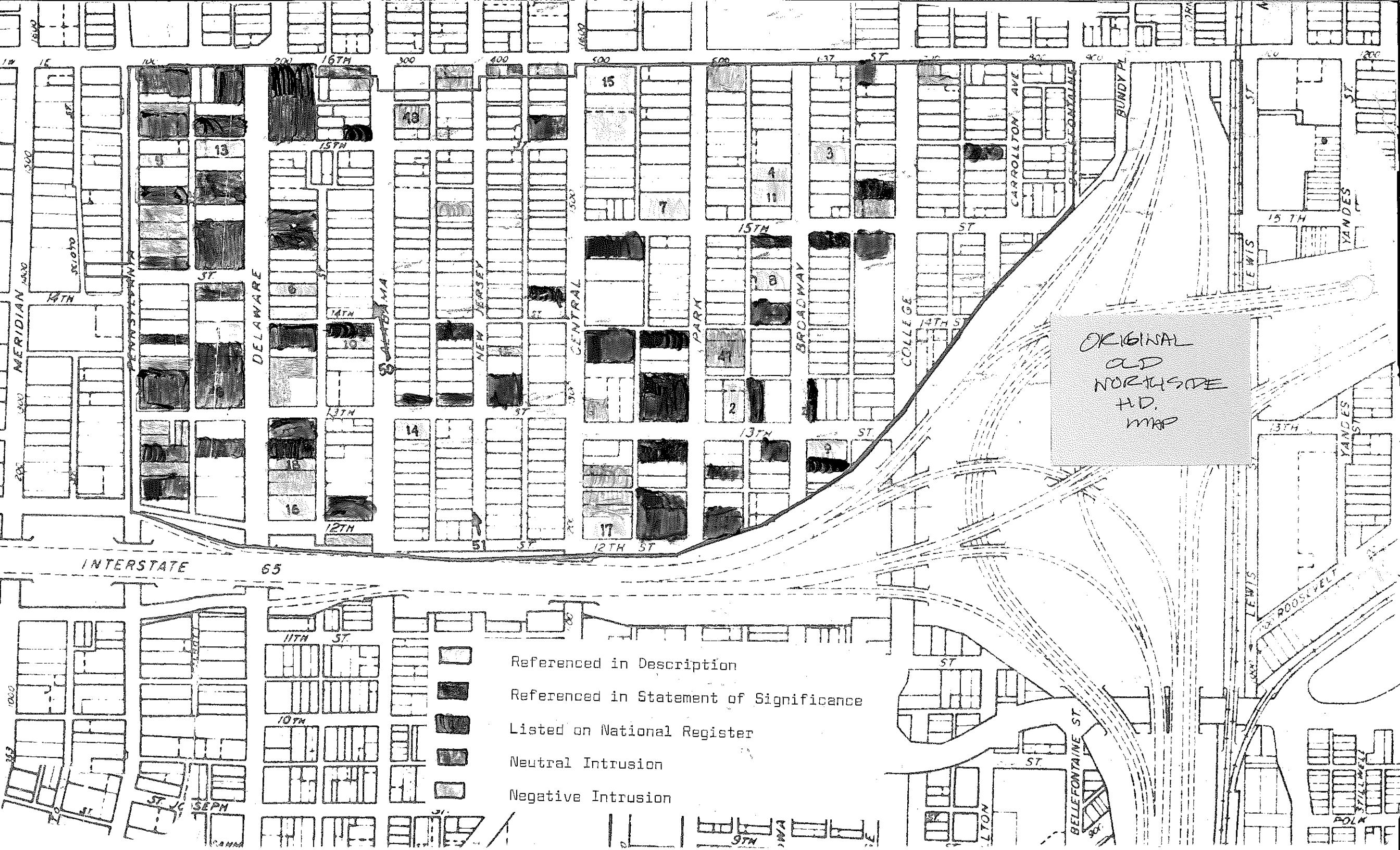
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- Referenced in Statement of Significance
- Listed on National Register
- Neutral Intrusion
- Negative Intrusion